

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
JULY 26, 2021
PR-2021-079768; GF-2021-086716
1308 ALTA VISTA AVENUE

PROPOSAL

Partially demolish and modify a ca. 1935 residence by altering the existing roofline to construct a roof deck; removing and adding windows and doors with fiberglass, wood, and vinyl units; repairing siding; and enclosing walkway and porte-cochère with storefront assemblies.

ARCHITECTURE

Two-story Colonial Revival house clad in brick with 6:6 wood windows, full-width front porch with flat and gabled roof supported by boxed columns, recessed entryway with decorative pilasters, and arched porte-cochère.

RESEARCH

The house at 1308 Alta Vista Avenue was constructed in or before 1935 by Alden and Mabel Davis. Alden Davis was a businessman who managed the auto supply division at the Walter Tips Company, eventually becoming a member of the board of directors and vice-president of the enterprise. His wife, Mabel Davis, was a civic leader who founded, led, and participated in many charitable and educational endeavors throughout her long tenure in the home.

Best known for her enthusiasm for gardening, Davis helped to found and manage Austin's garden club circuit, opening her home to club members for events and regular meetings from the time it was constructed until her death. She served as Texas' state chairman for roadside beautification and as a member of the Parks board, along with other positions of honor. The rose garden at Zilker Botanical Gardens is named for Davis, in honor of her contributions as chairman and founder of the Austin Area Garden Center, Inc. In her joint role as chairman of the Botanical Garden's building committee, she worked with City Council and local architect Hugo Kuehne to construct the Austin Area Garden Center at Zilker Botanical Gardens. According to the City's Parks and Recreation Department and Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy:

[In 1954,] six Austin Garden Clubs requested permission from the City to erect a Garden Center on city property. Mrs. Mabel Davis lead the effort with founding clubs including the Violet Crown Garden Club, the Men's Garden Club (now the Garden Club of Austin), Wilshire Area Garden Club, the Austin Women's Federation Garden Group (now The Garden G.A.N.G.), Heart of the Hills Garden Club, and Western Hills Garden Club (now West Lake Hills Garden Club). [In 1955,] The City of Austin accepted the idea and in April of 1956, the group filed articles of incorporation with the Texas Secretary of State. The Austin Area Garden Center was born and worked to bring a building to Zilker Park to serve as the garden center for club activities, community education, and volunteer efforts. (Source: <https://zilker garden.org/who-are-we-history/>)

As the executive secretary for the Red Cross, Davis led the charge for volunteer nurses during World War II. In 1960, she was named "Woman of the Year" by the Travis County Medical Auxiliary. In 1961, the Austin Board of Real Estate named her the city's "Most Worthy Citizen" for her service and leadership in numerous health-related boards, drives, and charitable causes, including a stint as state chairman of the American Cancer Society.

In addition to ecological and health-related causes, Davis was a patron of the arts. As president of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs, she worked with the Municipal Art Guild to arrange exhibits for the public and chapter members; her support of art and artists led the Austin American-Statesman to select her as the year's "Outstanding Contributor to Art" in 1962.

DESIGN STANDARDS

The City of Austin's [Historic Design Standards](#) (March 2021) are based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and are used to evaluate projects at potential historic landmarks. The following standards apply to the proposed project:

Repair and alterations

1. General standards

The proposed project retains street-facing windows previously proposed for replacement with doors. A stained-glass window on a secondary façade slated for replacement is not original to the house. The project proposes removal and replacement of porch handrail and rear deck guardrails. Repairs and in-kind replacement are proposed for deteriorated exterior cladding.

3. Roofs

The application proposes that all new roof materials match existing shingle roof. Most character-defined features are retained, though the pitch will be modified to accommodate the roof deck and added hipped structure. These modifications occur at the rear of the property, in the location of prior additions.

4. Exterior walls and trim

Repairs and in-kind replacement are proposed for deteriorated exterior cladding.

5. Windows, doors, and screens

The project no longer proposes removal of two street-facing windows for insertion of new double doors. As noted above, the stained-glass window to be replaced is not original to the house.

8. Attached garages and carports

The proposed project encloses the existing porte-cochère and south walkway with a glass and steel storefront. While this is a modern intervention that infills a significant historic feature, the use of glass maintains a sense of openness to the porte-cochère.

Summary

Based on design revisions and additional clarification, the project meets most of the applicable standards.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

The property contributes to the pending Travis Heights-Fairview National Register Historic District.

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain moderate integrity. The 1961 Sanborn fire insurance map shows a reduced front porch; expansion may have occurred during or after the home's period of significance.
- 3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). Staff has evaluated the property and determined that it may meet three criteria:
 - a. *Architecture*. The building displays Colonial Revival stylistic influences.
 - b. *Historical association*. The property is associated with civic leader Mabel L. Davis.
 - c. *Archaeology*. The property was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
 - d. *Community value*. The property does not appear to possess a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, the neighborhood, or a particular demographic group.
 - e. *Landscape feature*. While staff has been unable to obtain additional research in this area, the property may possess significant designed landscape features in connection with owner Mabel L. Davis.

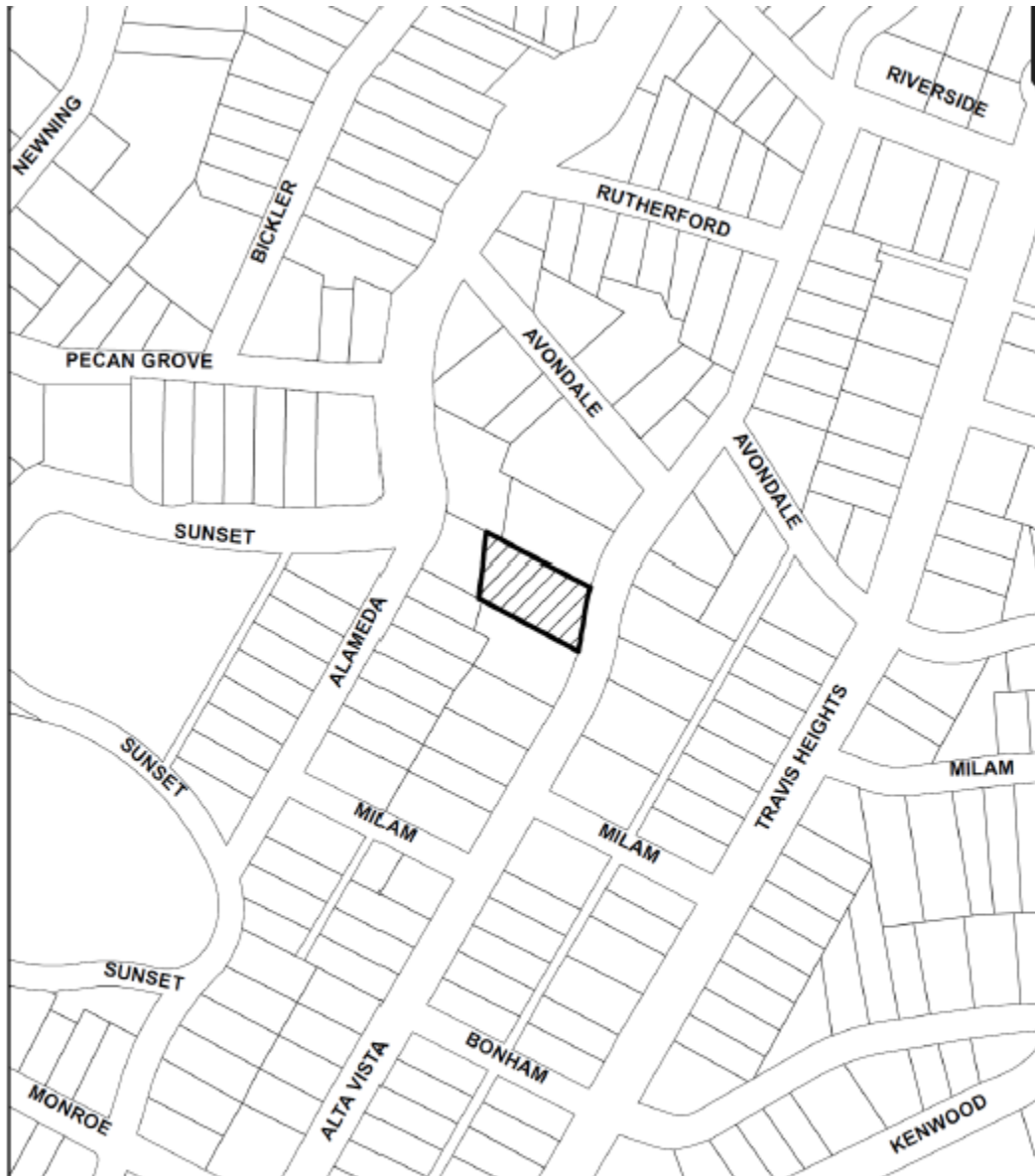
COMMITTEE FEEDBACK




Committee members acknowledged the extent to which the house had been modified by prior additions. To keep the façade intact, the original windows at the porch should be retained in lieu of the proposed French doors. The design has been updated to retain the windows.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Release the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 208'

NOTIFICATIONS
CASE#: PR 21-079768
LOCATION: 1308 ALTA VISTA AVENUE

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

This product has been produced by CTM for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.



PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos





Occupancy History

City Directory Research, June 2021

1959	Mabel L. Davis, owner
1957	Alden T. and Mable Davis, owners
1955	Alden T. and Mable Davis, owners
1952	Alden T. and Mable Davis, owners Executive vice-president, Walter Tips Co. Inc. (Northwest corner of W 2 nd and Colorado)
1949	Alden T. and Mable Davis, owners Vice-president, Walter Tips Co. Inc. (Northwest corner of W 2 nd and Colorado)
1947	Alden T. and Mable Davis, owners Vice-president, Walter Tips Co. Inc. (Northwest corner of W 2 nd and Colorado)
1944	Alden T. and Mabel L. Davis, renters Secretary, Walter Tips co. Inc.
1941	Alden T. and Mabel L. Davis, owners Department head, Walter Tips Co.
1939	Alden T. and Mabel Davis, owners Purchasing agent, Walter Tips Co.
1937	Alden and Mabel Davis, owners Department manager, Walter Tips Co.
1935	Vacant
1932	Address not listed

Biographical Information

**ALDEN DAVIS TO ACCOMPANY
HOUSTON C. OF C. TO MEXICO**

Alden Davis, manager of the auto supply department of the Walter Tips Company, left for Houston Wednesday to accompany the Houston Chamber of Commerce on a month's trip through Mexico. The object of Mr. Davis' trip is the opening up of trade relations between his firm and automobile dealers of Mexico.

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RADIO PROGRAM

The Wednesday Morning Music club will broadcast a varied radio program over KUT tonight at 8:30, with the musical news to be given by Mrs. R. Leon White. Selections on the program are to be given by Mrs. H. C. Wright, Mrs. Oliver Radkey and Mrs. Alden Davis and her daughter, Louise Davis.

The Statesman (1916-1921); Oct 6, 1920 and The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Mar 2, 1928

Directors Named For Tips Company

Bain and Searight Get Places on Board.

Election of Robert Bain and Dan F. Searight to the board of directors of The Walter Tips company was announced Saturday by Ralph C. Goeth, vice president of the firm.

WIDE ACQUAINTANCE.

Mr. Bain began working for the Walter Tips company Oct. 1, 1900, and is well known to the machinery and hardware trade. Mr. Bain has a wide acquaintance among manufacturers of machinery and equipment and specializes in handling special machinery not usually carried in stock.

Mr. Searight is a member of one of Austin's oldest families and came to the Walter Tips company after attending the University of Texas, on June 21, 1904. Mr. Searight travels some of Austin's best trade territory. He was captain of artillery overseas during the world war.

LIST OF DIRECTORS

The complete board of directors now consists of: George J. Groos, F. W. Posey, Roy Smith, Eugene Tips, Mrs. Julia Tips Goeth, Alden Davis, Robert Bain, Dan F. Searight and Ralph C. Goeth.

The Austin American (1914-1973); Mar 4, 1928

Women To Plan For Campaign

Twenty prominent Austin women will meet at headquarters of the Austin auditorium campaign on the mezzanine floor of the Driskill hotel Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock to discuss the part of Austin women in the drive to start Friday, April 27.

M. C. Parrish, general chairman of the Austin drive, has called the meeting. "I think, without a doubt, the women of Austin will have a major influence in putting over this project for the future welfare of Austin. They have always done a big part of the work of making the city an ideal place to live, and I am sure they will continue to have an important part in this most important phase of the 'Onward Austin' movement," Mr. Parrish said in announcing the meeting.

The women will represent practically every club in the city. In addition to the women's council members who will meet Tuesday morning, Mrs. H. H. Sevier, Mrs. Percy V. Pennybacker, and Mrs. Joe F. James are members of the executive committee of the auditorium campaign.

Those who will be present Tuesday are Mesdames Joe James, R. C. Roberdeau, Lynn Hunter, Evan Swann, Howard Osburn, Ben Powell, Charles Gardner, Tom Butler, Harry Marks, Charles Stephenson, I. H. Sevier, Alden Davis, Harry Bickler, James P. Nash, Noyes Smith, J. M. Loving, A. F. Beverly, Joe Gilbert, R. L. Slaughter, and A. N. McCallum.

The Austin campaign will be conducted to raise \$150,000 which will be part of a total of \$1,100,000 raised by Austin and the Ex-Students' association and appropriated by the University Board of Regents for the construction of three buildings on the university campus in Austin. Two of the buildings will have auditoriums always available for Austin, one seating 10,000 to be used for large national and state conventions, mass meetings, and performances by noted artists and large theatrical companies, and a smaller one seating 1,800 to be used for smaller gatherings.

ALDEN LEE IS HONORED AT PARTY

Little Alden Lee Seaton celebrated his third birthday Tuesday morning by inviting a group of his young friends to play outdoors with him on the shaded lawn of the Alden Davis home in Travis Heights, with his mother, Mrs. Lee Seaton, and aunt, Mrs. Davis, to help him entertain the children.

A fish pond was the center of interest, and children's games were enjoyed in the yard from 9 to 10:30 o'clock. The beautifully shaded lawn of the Davis home makes an ideal setting for any outdoors affair.

Yellow and green balloons were presented to the youngsters, and miniature row boats were given as favors. Girls wore their gay-colored pajamas and boys their sun suits to insure true summer comfort.

After an hour-and-a-half of play, the children were served refreshments. They were accompanied by their mothers, so that Alden Lee was host to quite a large gathering. Children asked to share the courtesy were:

Ruth Kinney, Mary Frances Suratt, Betty Ann Bradfield, Joyce Kinney, Naomi Makemson, Frances Schneider and Eleanor Jean Sagg; Harry Garrison, Warren McMordie, Jr., George Edwin and Thornton Lemans of San Antonio, Richard Dexter Kinney, Philip Eugene Sanders, and Jack Schneider.

EYEWITNESS TO SAM BASS ESCAPE DIES IN ROUND ROCK

Mrs. E. Makemson, 71, who was an eyewitness of the escape of Sam Bass from the post office at Round Rock, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Alden Davis, Monday at 10:20 a. m. She had been a resident of Williamson and Travis counties for 50 years and for the past 10 or 12 years had lived in Austin with her daughter.

Mrs. Makemson was born in Eberfeldt, Germany, in 1867, and came to America at the age of 5 years. She came over with her mother on a boat that was half sail and half steam. The journey took six months and on the boat the little girl remembered spending one of her Christmas days.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Ernest Dickman came with her mother to Galveston where her father was awaiting them. From there she moved to Round Rock where she lived till her marriage. It was there, where her mother was in the grocery business, that

Mrs. Makemson, then a young girl, saw the Sam Bass episode. She was sitting on her front porch when Sam Bass ran out of the post office and escaped. He was captured later that day.

From Round Rock, after her marriage, Mrs. Makemson moved to Georgetown. Beloved by the poor people of the town, the kindly woman each morning prepared a kettle of vegetable soup to feed the less fortunate.

When her health began to fail, she moved to Austin to live with her daughter, Mrs. Davis. Other survivors are one son, George Makemson of Austin; another daughter, Mrs. Lee Seaton of Corpus Christi, and a brother, Alfred Dickman of Long Beach, Calif. There are three grandchildren, Alden Lee Seaton, Mrs. Nolan Harvey, Jr., of Waco and Naomi Makemson.

Funeral services will be held at 5 p. m. Tuesday from the First Baptist church at Georgetown.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Jul 11, 1938

Return to Austin

Among recent arrivals in Austin are Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Harvey, late of Waco. Mrs. Harvey is the former Billie Louise Davis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alden Davis of Austin, well known in music and radio circles throughout Texas.

Mr. Harvey is with the highway department and the couple will be at home with Mrs. Alden Davis, 1308 Alta Vista, until they build a home in Travis Heights.

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The Austin American (1914-1973); Sep 25, 1938

Mrs. Davis New Head Of Federation

Miss Betts Is Speaker At Meeting

The Women's City Federation Tuesday elected Mrs. Alden Davis to succeed Mrs. Marvin Hall as president, and Mrs. C. H. Standifer as first vice president. Other officers elected are Mrs. W. M. Taylor, second vice president; Mrs. Max Brooks, recording secretary; Mrs. W. S. Gatewood, corresponding secretary; Mrs. J. R. Carpenter, treasurer.

Mrs. Sam J. Smith was appointed by the new president as parliamentarian.

Miss Olive Betts, member of the University of Texas home economics department, spoke on modern interiors, stressing the modern approach to background, period and materials used in the comfortable home.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Apr 26, 1939

GARDEN TOURS SET DURING WEEK

By MOLLY CONNOR COOK

American-Statesman Staff

The annual spring garden pilgrimage of the Violet Crown Garden club has been set for Wednesday and on that day from 9 a. m. to 6 p. m. 14 gardens in various parts of the city will be open to visitors. They have been selected first for outstanding beauty, but at the same time because of distinctive features which differentiate them from others included in the pilgrimage.

The admission fee of 50 cents which will be paid at the first garden visited will admit to all the gardens listed and the visitors will be given a card to be shown at the entrance to other gardens.

A committee of hostesses from the garden club will greet visitors in each garden and show them about the grounds. The pilgrimage may start at any garden listed and if desired part of the places may be visited at one time and the rest at another.

View of the Hills

The Alden Davis garden at 1308 Alta Vista is notable for its large bed of pink and red radiance roses bordered with shasta daisies, but more notable for the beautiful view of the hills to the west from the terraced slopes in the rear where homely garden flowers grow.

The B. S. Dickerson home, 2300 La Prella Place, is a riot of color, with roses, phlox, poppies, both the crimson and the smaller yellow California variety, Queen Anne's lace, amaryllis and all flowers now in season.

At the home of Judge and Mrs.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)

The Austin American (1914-1973); Apr 30, 1939

Mrs. Davis Is Leader In Red Cross, Community Chest

Austin Woman Actively Connected With Many Community and Charitable Projects

Mrs. Alden Davis is well-known and much admired by all who are intimately connected with the Austin Red Cross, Community chest and home beautification projects. Besides being grandmother to the attractive Harvey twins and spending each week-end with her family at their lodge on Lake Buchanan, Mrs. Davis spends each week day helping in some community or charitable project.

For many years she has been a member of the Board of the Red Cross and is now chairman of all volunteer Red Cross work in Austin. Not to be content with administrative duties only, Mrs. Davis works in several production units, knitting and sewing, in addition to taking the 15-hour course in surgical dressings so that she can assist in this project for the duration of the war.

Heads Community Chest

For eight years she has been chairman of the women's division of the annual Community Chest drive and has served as a member of the Community Chest board and as treasurer of the well-baby con-

ferences and of the Austin baby milk fund which furnishes milk to all babies of families on relief from the time the babies are infants to school age.

Crippled children have felt her keen interest, for she is the volunteer investigator for the Travis County chapter of the Texas Association of Crippled Children and is chairman of the local March of Dimes committee.

In Garden Club

Among the community beautification activities in which Mrs. Davis participates are the Texas Garden clubs, incorporated, of which she is state chairman for roadside development, a position which ties in with her duties as chairman of the 14th district of the citizens organization for highway beautification. The Austin Chamber of Commerce appointed her chairman of the farm beautification committee, and much of the credit for the recent improvement along the state and county highways is due Mrs. Davis. Under this division of activities comes her office as first vice-president of the Violet Crown Garden club.

A great believer in cooperative action, Mrs. Davis is a past president of the City Federation of Women's clubs, the group which coordinates the activities of 23 Austin clubs. For her own pleasure in social activities, Mrs. Davis is an active member of the Austin Women's club and is a frequent guest at the club luncheons.



THE WOMEN, GOD BLESS 'EM, is the sentiment around the Community Chest campaign office. Because they reported three-fifths of their quota of \$5,000 already subscribed, the women's division had the honor of riding on the fire truck, reward held out for the division making the best showing at the periodic report luncheons. On the truck are pictured, left to right, Mrs. Alden Davis, chairman; Mrs. Frank Posey, Mrs. A. W. Walker, Jr., Mrs. J. D. Bolding, Mrs. Rex Hopper, Mrs. William Shirriffs, Mrs. C. F. Arrowood, Mrs. R. M. Hamby, Mrs. Ruby Cook and Mayor Tom Miller, general campaign chairman.

The Austin American (1914-1973); Oct 12, 1941

Nationwide Appeal Is Made For 200,000 Nurse's Aides

Mrs. Alden Davis, chairman of the volunteer special services of the local Red Cross chapter, Saturday appealed to local women to enroll for training in the volunteer nurse's aide corps.

In wartime we are faced with an acute nursing shortage, not only here in Austin but all over the country, Mrs. Davis pointed out. Nurses are being called daily for service with the armed forces, both at home and abroad. To meet the urgent nursing needs of hospitals, clinics and health agencies, the office of civilian defense together with the Red Cross has issued a nationwide appeal for 200,000 women to volunteer as nurse's aides.

Community Responsibility

"In case of an epidemic of flu such as followed the last war, our present local nursing resources would prove inadequate to handle the situation," Mrs. Davis said. "We have a community responsibility here in Austin to see that our civilian and military services are not only adequately maintained but that we are prepared for any eventuality. We can only do this if a local group of competent and hard working women volunteer to assist our graduate nurses. By learning how to perform simple routine duties in hospitals and clinics, these nurse's aides can release the graduate nurse for more technical work, which only she can perform. In addition, they will have the satisfaction of knowing that they are playing a vital part in our war effort."

An intensive 80-hour training course for volunteer nurse's aides

is starting with a night class beginning Monday and a day class beginning Feb. 14. Women between 18 and 50, American citizens, physically fit and willing to serve at least 150 hours per year without pay, are eligible for enrollment.

Graduate Nurse Instructor

The first half of the course consists of 35 hours of class work, with a qualified graduate nurse as instructor. The second half will be at Brackenridge hospital, where the volunteer will spend 45 hours in supervised practice.

After completing the course, the aide is expected to give the first 150 hours of service in hospital wards, and later she may be assigned to a civilian or a military hospital, clinic, health department or other health agencies. Her duties are many and varied, but her work is always supervised by a graduate nurse.

All those wishing to volunteer are asked to apply at once at the local Red Cross chapter, 700 Guadalupe, or telephone 8-6479.

Dental Group Honors Two Austin Women

Mrs. Ben Powell,
Mrs. Alden Davis
Luncheon Guests

Mrs. Ben W. Powell and Mrs. Alden Davis were honor guests at a luncheon in the Georgian tea-room of the TFWC building Friday given by the Austin District Dental auxiliary.

Following the luncheon a business meeting was called by Mrs. E. E. Harris, president of the auxiliary, who presented Mrs. W. L. Wier, chairman of patriotic service, for the month. Mrs. Wier presented Mrs. Ben Powell, chairman of camp and hospital council of the Red Cross for this district, who gave an interesting and instructive outline of service. Mrs. Powell announced that the board meeting will be held at McCloskey General hospital Thursday and urged that the auxiliary representative on the board be present.

Mrs. Davis, chairman of volunteer service of Travis county Red Cross, presented the needs of various contributions the group could make to the four hospital camps, McCloskey, Camp Hood, Camp Swift and Bergstrom field.

Then Dental auxiliary has unanimously contributed each month to the four army camps with recreation and amusements.

Present at the luncheon meeting were Mesdames E. C. Berwick, J. I. Cherico, H. W. Cornick, Barney Farmer, W. F. Haile, E. E. Harris, S. H. Johnston, John Meadows, Carl Moore, G. W. Shanks, J. H. Tyler Jr., O. C. Watson, R. T. Weber, W. L. Wier, R. L. Delafield, Morris Dowd, J. B. Williams, Jr., Alden Davis and Ben H. Powell.

Mrs. Davis Will Head Garden Club

Six local gardens will be open for inspection by members of the Violet Crown Garden Club for the next two weeks. The gardens will be open to members at all times and members are urged to visit them whenever they wish.

First of a series of tours of local gardens, the six will be replaced by gardens of other members during the year. An effort is made to choose gardens which are at their best blooming period for the visits.

Gardens open June 1-14 include those at the following residences:

Paul Thompson, 1507 Wooldridge Drive; William Logan, 1505 Wooldridge Drive; Emil Halm, 1501 Wooldridge Drive; W. T. Tonn, 1411 Wathen Avenue; H. A. Sullivan, 2604 Bridle Path; G. C. Commons, 2601 Bridle Path.

The club held its last meeting for the year at Laguna Gloria Thursday afternoon. Reports on the state garden convention here and installation of officers were scheduled.

Mrs. W. R. Nabours officiated at the ceremony, installing Mrs. Alden Davis, president; Mrs. Goodall Wooten, first vice president; Mrs. H. A. Glass, second vice president; Mrs. George Van Fleet, third vice president; Mrs. Chester McDowell, secretary; Mrs. Frank Posey, treasurer Mrs. Kelley McAdams, librarian; Mrs. Sam J. Smith, parliamentarian.

Roses, daisies, hydrangeas and white lotus, grown at Laguna Gloria decorated the house. Punch was served by retiring officers, Miss Willie Birge, Mrs. J. Falkner, Mrs. S. W. Bohls, Mrs. Cecil Caba-

Mrs. Alden Davis Puts Executive Know-How And 'Hoe' Experience Into Garden Club Job

By NELLA MAE DIETER
American-Statesman Garden Editor

"There's never a worry that the hoe couldn't cure." The energetic, vibrant woman whose name we had learned to associate synonymously with "Travis County Chapter, American Red Cross," quoted a line she remembered from a story or poem.

The gardener speaking so positively was Mrs. Alden Davis, 1308 Alta Vista. A year away from the strenuous war days when she tackled perhaps the biggest volunteer job in this community—full-time executive secretary of the local Red Cross—Mrs. Davis is back at home. As she explains, "home to her means the outdoors, where she can turn a spade of dirt, raise 135 fryers and calculate the next development in her already extensive yard.

Surely almost every one in Austin knows of Mrs. Davis. For who wasn't at some time or another routed to the doorstep of the Red Cross to ask for the assistance it alone could perform for that serviceman who was a prisoner or for the myriad of other occasions where only the Red Cross could intercede. Behind the network of departments which made up the wartime Red Cross in Austin, Mrs. Davis presided day in and day out. The emergency even followed her home where she spent evenings answering the phone, doing what was possible in the name of the Red Cross, no matter the time of night.

Neglected Gardening During War

While she was dedicating her waking hours to the war effort, Mrs. Davis had to turn her back on the outdoors. After a year's catching up, she finds herself spotlighted in the job of contributing again to the city she loves. Mrs. Davis has been named to head the local garden club for the year



—Neal Douglas Photo

KEEPING THEM TRIMMED—Mrs. Alden Davis makes trees of her wisteria by keeping them constantly trimmed. The new president of the local garden club, Mrs. Davis has a preference for plants which have purple flowers.

Preserved Native Plants

She apparently allows herself leeway to change her thoughts on the path a gardener should follow. For example, she explained "when we first moved to this home, my idea was to preserve the native surroundings. With that magnificent view as the main feature, I was cautious about taking out the trees and native shrubbery. And for several years I was intent on adding only native plants," she relates.

Her pride and joy is a burr oak tree she grew from an acorn. The tree, quite large now, resulted from a talk given by Mrs. J. Frank Dobie to Austin gardeners some years ago. Mrs. Davis received one of the acorns available at the time. She followed the planting advice given by Mrs. Dobie and was rewarded with whopping success. The burr oak's leaves, shaped similar to those of a post oak, are enormous and quickly attract attention for their size.

Turned to Variety

Her zeal for native plantings finally succumbed to the call of the domestic, and when Mrs. Davis launched forth, she decided she would try to grow as many different plants as possible. Her interest was boundless. The Davises extended their property lines to accommodate the garden.

When waterlilies came to her attention, Mrs. Davis stopped not with one pool near the house but engineered another farther out where it enhance dher landscape plans. These ponds give her much satisfaction, because she can look back and remember that her hands helped make them. Of course, she had hired helpers to do the heaviest work, but in her words, "I was right there laying two stones to every one I left for the workers to lay. Those pools are like I planned them."

As she has pursued her intention of growing as many different flowers as possible, Mrs. Davis has discovered she unconsciously shows a color preference for plants which bloom in shades of purple. "I never wear clothes that color, and I don't prefer to wear flowers of purple," Mrs. Davis stated. Her choice for her shoulder is more frequently red, and Mrs. Davis very seldom will be met downtown without a flower as part of her costume. But taking a tour through her yard, red is visible only in a patch of cannas. Wistaria, violets, butterfly bush, bouganvillia, azaleas all reflect her taste for purple.

Favors Wistaria

Wistaria has long been a favorite subject with Mrs. Davis, as those who know her well will testify. Stopping at her address, a caller is greeted by wistaria long before the house is visible. These plants, kept trimmed in the shape of trees, stand at the street entrance to her yard. These and others growing in their natural habit as vines, she bought from local nurseries. "It takes about three years to get a good trunk on tree wistaria, but it will begin blooming the first year after it is planted in the fall," Mrs. Davis explained. Tree wistaria, of course, is the ordinary

vine kept shorn to the shape of a tree. This requires generous pruning once or twice a month, both on top the bush and underneath. Mrs. Davis explained that in the springtime the trees are a spectacular mass of purple, even more so than a vine.

"I used to say that I could never get far enough away from native plants to grow azaleas and camellias." The garden club president then pointed to a bed of azaleas and showed us the part of her yard she plans to turn into a "spot of New Orleans," complete with camellias, azaleas and wrought iron furniture.

Predicts Hibiscus Fancy

Perhaps the newest flower interest on Mrs. Davis' horizon is the hibiscus. She predicts this flower will seize the fancy of Austin gardeners much as azaleas and camellias have done.

Of course, roses haven't escaped

her attention. She has had her worries with them as have many longtime gardeners here. Because of expensive losses several times, she has given rose bushes a minor place in her yard. This displeases her. During the coming week she will be in Tyler to attend a state meeting of Texas Gardens Club, Incorporated. (For four years she has been state chairman for roadside development in the organization.) One of her announced intentions is to visit some rose growers while in Tyler.

"I have an idea which I want to discuss with some one who specializes in growing roses," she determined Mrs. Davis said. "Since so many of us in Austin have had luck with our roses, I wonder if perhaps the root stock of the grafted roses we buy isn't at fault? Can a special root stock for our locality be developed?" she intends to ask the Tyler specialists.

Mrs. Davis Is A Willing Worker In Civic Endeavor

SOME YEARS ago a songwriter happened to set to music a command that Mrs. Alden Davis, a good-humored claustrophobe, has been tossing at the world all her life: "Don't Fence Me In."

It has compelled her with gentle insistence toward a country-in-town way of living so that her house on a Travis Heights bluff commands a great, panoramic view of the city from St. Edward's to East Avenue; to garden like mad in all kinds of weather; to fly-fish with her husband on the North Fork of the Llano, the South Fork being unbearably cluttered.

Even as a Sunday School teacher, Mabel Davis held what she believes were the "most sacred" meetings of her teen-age class on Barton Creek where mention of the Scripture was happily combined with the natural wonder of rocks and woods and running water. Fortunately, her Methodist deacons endorsed this occasional choice of locale.

The Davises own 500 acres on the lake, and next year, Mrs. Davis is telling herself, she intends to do no civic work but shall devote herself to the development of that property. Her friends doubt only half of this program. "Why, Mabel Davis could plant 500 acres in hyacinths if she wanted to and still run six clubs and somebody's relief project," one of them declared.

Certainly it is the Civic Davis that Austin knows best.

During the war she was the working head of 6,000 women in the Travis Red Cross. For eight years she headed the women's division of the Community Chest. As president of the City Federation of Women's Clubs, she saw the Austin-Travis County TB Hospital through to completion and the Well Child Conference begun. She has been president of the Austin Woman's Club and the Humane Society and she is now president of the Violet Crown Garden Club.

There are only some of her organizations and activities but they tend to show that the Davis woman has energy, foresight, brains and the personal magnetism necessary to leadership.

She has never, as it happens, earned a dollar for herself, but she was a power in the financial drive that sent Fred Lowry, a whistling blind boy, to ultimate success with Vincent Lopez and the networks. She also has raised money for welfare needs and such countless individual cases that nobody, let alone

Mrs. Davis, has kept track of them.

She conducted Mayor Miller to a hovel behind a downtown business building and showed him the four cases of active tuberculosis it housed. "Austin has to do something about this," she declared. The TB Sanatorium was at least the partial answer.

One of her nicest compliments, to her way of thinking, came from a woman who said, "Mrs. Davis, you don't seem a bit like a PRESIDENT. You work right along with us." She can no more stay in the ranks than cream can stay at the bottom of the bottle but she has never asked anyone in an organization to do anything she would not do herself.

In one of those moments of self-curiosity we all indulge in, Mrs. Davis asked her maid, who has been with the family for many years, what kind of person she thought she was. "Why, Mis' Davis, just the finest in the world!" the maid told her. Naturally, the reply was pleasing, but Mrs. Davis persisted, "In what way am I any different from anybody else?" "Well . . ." the maid pondered, "you don't do anything but work in the yard and answer the phone!"

Mrs. Davis, home for lunch, threw back his head and roared. He had tried to telephone his wife all morning and he finally had to come home to speak to her.

The Davis telephone was never busier than it was during the war.

In the small hours of the morning, a small, frightened voice might intrude with the announcement, "I'm about to have my baby, I think. Oh, Mrs. Davis, what shall I do?" Mrs. Davis, Red Cross executive, would calmly counsel, "What every woman does, my dear—have it," roll sleepily from bed and make the hospital arrangements. Any number of girl war babies whose parents lived in the Austin training area are growing up with the name "Mabel."

Mrs. Davis, who was City Federation president in 1940 when the Red Cross swung into action, became chairman of Volunteer Special Services—embracing eight corps of workers—some months before Pearl Harbor. She had previously worked to complete this county's first sewing quota, for which Miss Tommie Wooten was chairman, and set up a surgical dressing unit at the Lrskill Hotel. She became executive secretary of the chapter in 1944 and was on 24-hour duty through V-J Day.



'Mrs. Davis' phone is busy.'

Mrs. Goodall Wooten, who succeeded Mrs. Davis in Volunteer Special Services, has said, referring to the war years: "Mrs. Davis IS Red Cross in Austin!"

A Williamson County girl, Mrs. Davis went to school at St. Mary's Academy. At 17, she married Alden Davis, member of a well known Austin family, and they settled here for keeps after a few years in Port Arthur. Mrs. Davis had a musical education, and her first activity here was the Amateur Choral Club, which not only made music itself but brought people like Galli Curci, Schumann-Helink, Paderevski and John McCormack to Austin to make music, too. Concerts were then presented in the Old Gym, a rude wooden structure on the University campus.

Sousa's Band had such popular attraction that some of the customers sat on the rafters. "I can see those boys now," Mrs. Davis recalls, "their legs dangling down and moving in time to the music."

She was studying piano with the late Professor Richter, an association which led, through Marguerite Richter, to an interest in the Lowry boy. Fred Lowry made good, in the final analysis, on his own talent and initiative, but an enormous community effort went

into his early training. The Lions Club and individuals subscribed funds that sent him to Chicago and California; the State put the resources of its rehabilitation program behind him.

At one time, a can-opener agency was obtained for the boy. Mrs. Davis drove him about town to make sales.

A few pupils were obtained for Fred to see whether he could instruct others in the art of whistling. One of them was Louise Davis, who also studied music under her mother. Louise had more than the usual talent, but Mrs. Davis wisely let Louise decide for herself whether she wanted to try for concert work or simply enjoy music for her own pleasure in it. Louise married after two years in the University, and has since pursued music for pleasure, although she has done some radio work.

Mrs. Davis is now teaching Jill, her eight-year-old granddaughter, who shows signs of the same family aptitude for music. So does Jack, the eight-year-old grandson, but he is intent only on football. Jack and Jill are twins, the children of Louise and Nolan Harvey. Their house is almost literally under the Davises', built below the bluff, and the twins race up a winding flight of stone steps to get to Grandmother's back door.

Mrs. Alden Davis Installs New Federation Officers

New officers of the Woman's City Federation were installed Tuesday morning in a ceremony conducted by Mrs. Alden Davis.

Serving another year will be Mrs. W. R. Nabours, president; Mrs. J. B. Pace, first vice president; Mrs. J. M. Falkner, second vice president; Mrs. M. D. Thompson, secretary; Mrs. Sam Lichenstein, vice president; Mrs. M. D. Thompson, secretary; Mrs. Sam Lichenstein, corresponding secretary; Mrs. James S. Davis, historian.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); May 26, 1948

Mrs. Davis Discusses X-Ray Survey

Mrs. Alden Davis, co-chairman of the Austin-Travis County X-ray Survey to be conducted Oct. 18-30, spoke on the work of the unit at the regular Thursday luncheon at the Austin Woman's Club.

Mrs. William O. George, civics chairman for the club asked for playing cards of the Red Cross and the Tubercular Hospital and for volunteers to staff the X-ray booths during the survey.

Mrs. Frank W. Posey was chairman of the hostess committee at the Thursday luncheon of the Austin Women's Club at the club.

Others on the committee were Mesdames A. E. Wood, Morgan Callaway Jr., Henderson Coquat, Alden Davis and Ira P. Hildebrandt.

The large table in the dining room was centered with a large half-circle arrangement of autumn-hued chrysanthemums in a low bowl. The reception rooms were decorated with roses and queen's wreath in blue bowls.

Attending the luncheon as special guests of Mrs. Davis were Mesdames Bob Long, Rex Kitchens, W. T. Williams, William Trenchmann, Grover C. Partain and Miss Stella McCollough, who are working with Mrs. Davis on the survey.

Special guests of Mrs. William Gambrell, members of the State

Medical Center recently transferred to Austin from Fort Worth, were Mesdames Harold M. Williams, Joe A. Clark, Estell Parnell, Lynita M. Baxter, Peggie Hedeon, Carolyn Pippin, Jimmie Lou Adkins and Margaret Owen.

Members and guests present were Mesdames Joe Ballanfonte, E. C. Berwick, Morgan Callaway Jr., Bryant P. Collins, George E. Meyer, Henderson Coquat, Lloyd Davidson, Alden Davis, B. S. Dickinson, A. F. Felts, William Gambrell and W. O. George.

Also Mesdames Bascom Giles, James H. Hart, Arnold Romberg,

F. Y. Herrin, Frank Litten, Clyde Littlefield, T. T. Harrison of Spade, R. J. Hank, Eldridge Moore, Naomi Moore, J. Thomas Ward, J. E. Wilkerson of Thomson, Ga., P. W. McFadden, E. H. Sellards, Walter C. Moore, Frank W. Posey, Joe E. Rowe, C. L. Sandahl, Clint Small, Herbert Smith, Malcolm Gregory, Gertrude Stolley, R. E. Adloff, J. C. Thomas, L. M. Wood and W. H. Tonn.

A buffet luncheon will be served at the club Saturday from 11 a. m. to 1 p. m. Reservations must be made with the club hostess by Friday.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Oct 1, 1948

Mrs. Alden Davis Added To Worthy Citizen List

By WILLIAM J. WEEG

Mrs. Alden Davis has been nominated as Austin's Most Worthy Citizen for 1952.

Her participation in numerous activities for the good of Austin, Travis County and Texas was cited as outstanding.

She was nominated for consideration for the award and plaque to be announced at the annual dinner of the Austin Real Estate Board on Thursday night, Jan. 8.

NOMINATED BY two persons in the same letter, Mrs. Davis was paid tribute for her work with the Community Chest for eight years and with the American Red Cross for five years. During World War II, she served the Travis County Red Cross chapter as secretary and to a great extent the success of the Red Cross program during the war years was her direct responsibility her nominators declared.

Mrs. Davis is vice president of the Travis County Tuberculosis Association, and "her enthusiasm and interest in the chest X-ray program is the reason so many volunteers have devoted their services in assisting with this project, making it a success."

The letter of nomination added:

"The Crippled Children's program and child welfare in general are two additional projects to which she has devoted a great deal of time. The Texas Fine Arts Association gives Mrs. Davis credit for much achievement.

"Among other civic organizations, Mrs. Davis has been president of both the Austin Women's Federation and the Violet Crown Garden Club. She is an outstanding leader in our civic clubs. At present, Mrs. Davis is program chairman for the Austin Women's Federation and is sponsoring a Christmas program for

the members. This year's Violet Crown Garden Club Pilgrimage Group One, of the homes was under her supervision and was a huge success.

"Mrs. Davis also was chairman of the American Cancer Society, Texas Division, in the Seventh District of Texas. She was chairman of the women's section of the Travis County Democrats for Eisenhower."

MRS. DAVIS IS one of 18 men and women of Austin who have been nominated for Most Worthy Citizen honors.

Others are Judge J. Harris Gardner, Judge George S. Dowell, Mrs. Max Brooks, Dr. William G. Wolfe, Dr. Edmund Helmsohn, Dr. John Barclay, Mrs. Paul (Ruth) Connor, Taylor Glass, Mrs. Van C. Kelly, Ben E. Howell, Mrs. Hob Gray, Mrs. Jane Y. McCallum, Mrs. Joe Rowe, Jesse C. Kellam, Mrs. Garrie E. Bray, Captain James D. Lemon and George W. Tod.

The final selection will be made about one week before the award is to be made. Both the Most Worthy Citizen and the personnel of the selection board will be kept secret until the honoree for the year is announced Jan. 8.

Five Austinites Elected To Women's Club Board

By PHILLIS DISHMAN
The Woman's Staff
Five Austin women have been

named to the board of directors of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs for the 1953-55 administration by Mrs. L. E. Dudley of Abilene, newly installed president.

They are Mrs. Henry Kluge, art; Mrs. Alden Davis, Latin-American scholarship; Mrs. Bob Long, mobilization; Mrs. R. Max Brooks, consultant; and Mrs. Marvin Hall, legislation.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Nov 13, 1953

Garden Groups Join To Push Arbor Day Observance Here

Arbor Day, which falls on Jan. 15, will be observed in Austin through the combined efforts of the Garden Group of the Austin Woman's Federation, the newly formed Men's Garden Club of Austin and the Violet Crown Garden Club. Together they will sponsor a tree planting campaign within the city. They ask the donation of trees from clubs.

They hope to offer information to the public on what to plant and why to plant it, as well as how to plant it. They want to see Austin

as a city of trees, and they are particularly interested in the planting of blooming trees, of which there are so many which grow well here.

There is also a desire that many men and women will take an active interest in their efforts by planting a group or clump of trees in memory of deceased members of families. Already one family has asked to be allowed to plant a corner of a city parkland in memory of a son who was killed in an automobile accident this summer.

The Austin Woman's Federation has appointed as chairman for their work Mrs. C. B. Smith, 3317 Bowman Road; co-chairman, Mrs. Alden Davis, 1308 Alta Vista; and Mrs. A. M. Fitzpatrick, 3213 French Place, who is chairman of the Garden Group. Leading the work of the Men's Garden Club of Austin will be the president, Dr. S. W. Bohls.

The Austin American (1914-1973); Jan 3, 1954

Women On List For Next Jury

The next Travis County grand jury—to be sworn in Jan. 3—is sure to be the first in history to include women.

Five women, all well known in civic and club circles, are on the 16-member panel from which the 12-member grand jury will be selected.

Panel List

The panel list, made public Tuesday afternoon by District Clerk O. T. Martin Jr., includes Mrs. Elizabeth Gardner, 2504 Jarratt Avenue; Mrs. E. P. Conkle, 510 Cater Drive; Mrs. G. E. Bray, 1811 Kenwood Avenue; Mrs. A. F. Killingsworth, Manor; and Mrs. Alden Davis, 1308 Alta Vista.

The jury will be empanelled in Judge J. Harris Gardner's 53rd District Court.

Women on the panel came as no surprise since the commission which selected its members included—for the first time—a woman, Mrs. Jane Y. McCallum, former secretary of state.

Named to Serve

Mrs. McCallum was appointed to the commission by Judge Gardner only four days after the effective date last month of the constitutional amendment qualifying women for jury service in Texas.

Grand juries are chosen from the first 12 persons on 16-name panel list to qualify. Three of the women, Mrs. Gardner, non kin of Judge Gardner, Mrs. Conkle and Mrs. Bray are among the first 12 on the list. Mrs. Killingsworth is number 13 and Mrs. Davis number 15.

Mrs. Gardner is a former Aus-

secretary of state.

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Mrs. Gardner is a former Austin School Board member and is executive secretary of the Texas Society for Mental Health. Mrs. Conkle, wife of the widely known University of Texas drama professor, worked for passage of the women-on-juries amendment as a member of the Austin League of Women Voters. Mrs. Bray is a present member of the city school board. Mrs. Killingsworth, wife of a dairy owner, was active with her family in organization of the Travis County Milk Producers Association. Mrs. Davis for years has been a prominent civic worker and club woman.

Other Members

Other members of the panel include: Joe Manor, 1304 Norwood Road; Walter Guttman, 1215 Pasadena Drive; W. S. Drake Jr., former mayor; George K. Marshall, Leander; Russell J. Lombard, 1211 East 11th; John L. Prado Jr., 1115 East Eighth; Hoya S. Dunham, chief US weather forecaster here; David Lamme Jr., 1306 Bradwood Road; J. C. Maguire, 4400 Alice Avenue; Dick Reynolds, 2500 Pecos; and Walter P. Hicks, 1300 Bob Harrison Street.



History was made Monday in 53rd District Court when the first grand jury to include women in Travis County was sworn in. Pictured just before taking the oath are the jury's five women members. Left to right, front row, are

Mrs. G. E. Bray, Mrs. Elizabeth Gardner and Mrs. E. P. Conkle. Back row are Mrs. Alden Davis and Mrs. A. F. Killingsworth.

First Women Launch Service on Grand Jury

The first Travis County grand jury in history to include women was sworn in Monday.

Five women joined seven men in taking the solemn grand jury oath in Judge J. Harris Gardner's 53rd District Court.

Never before in the 115-year history of the grand jury system in

Travis County has a woman been eligible. The first grand jury was sworn in here on May 4, 1840.

The door was opened for grand jury service by women by passage last November of the constitutional amendment qualifying them for all jury service.

Judge Gardner told the women members, "We have been looking forward to this time for many years." He said also that it was only logical that they should serve because they have as much interest in the welfare of the community as men.

The women members of the historic jury include:

Mrs. Elizabeth Gardner, no kin to the judge, 2504 Jarrett Avenue; Mrs. E. P. Conkle, 510 Cater Drive; Mrs. G. E. Bray, 1811 Kenwood Avenue; Mrs. A. F. Killingsworth, Manor; and Mrs. Alden Davis, 1308 Alta Vista.

Other members of the jury:

Walter Guttman, 1215 Pasadena Drive; George K. Marshall, Leander; John L. Prado Jr., 1115 East Eighth; Hoye S. Dunham, chief US Weather Bureau forecaster; David Lamme Jr., 1306 Bradwood Road; Dick Reynolds, 2511 Pecos; and Walter P. Hicks, 1309 Bob Harrison Street.

Judge Gardner named Guttman foreman.

The grand jury faces an exceedingly heavy load, being the first since the end of November.

Watching the swearing-in of the women was Mrs. Jane Y. McCallum, former secretary of state and a member of the commission appointed by Gardner which selected the panel from which the grand jury was chosen. She was the first woman grand jury commissioner in Travis County history.

Beautified Zilker Future Possibility

By **CLAIRE BANISTER**

When certain Austinites look at the drought-ravaged hills in Zilker Park, they see much more than meets the eye of the average beholder.

These Austinites—who visualize bright roses blooming where others see only brown weed stalks, and redbuds and tall green trees instead of dying oaks—are members of the Austin Area Garden Center, Inc.

Gardens of roses, irises and other cultivated flowers, a redbud trail winding among the wooded slopes, a garden of native Texas cacti with their profusion of bright red and yellow flowers dotting the now drab hollow of an old gravel pit, and an abundance of wild flowers and shrubs replacing tangled underbrush and weeds.

These are part of the dreams, hopes and plans of members of the center for converting the rolling hills of this Zilker area (shown on the accompanying map) into an Austin area beauty spot, if and when such plans are approved by the City Council of Austin.

Such a garden center, including a building with a library and meeting rooms, would fill a multitude of community needs, according

to Mrs. **Alden Davis**, president of the organization.

"The plan is in harmony with park development and civic beautification ideas of the city," she said. "We want to enhance what is naturally there, and preserve plants and flowers native to the area."

The center could be a place where newcomers could learn what grows well here, where residents could observe the best in horticulture and horticultural practices, and where all could see examples of different types of landscaping. It would include experimental gardens, for testing plants or varieties of plants for growth in the area.

For students of primary and secondary schools and of the University of Texas, the center would serve as an outdoor laboratory for botanical study. A proposed nature trail, with plants and flowers labeled, would be of particular interest to students.

Members of various garden clubs and individuals interested in gardening make up the membership of the Austin Area Garden Center, Inc., which has been formally organized since May, 1955. Informal group meetings have been held since the spring months of 1954. The

group was incorporated and chartered by the State early this year, and is sponsored by the Austin Recreation Department.

Mrs. Davis and other members recently presented the group's ideas for establishment of the center in Zilker Park to the Austin City Council, requesting use of and supervision over the area.

The council, while making no definite commitments, was interested in the project and asked the group to draw up a master plan for the council to review.

Hugo F. Kuehne, Austin architect and city planning authority, is working with the center's building committee on plans for a building on the proposed site. The building is the particular hope and project of the Violet Crown Garden Club, one of the participating clubs of the center. Miss Annie T. Giles, VCGC president, told the council that the club now has some \$13,000 in its treasury earmarked for such a building.

Mrs. Magnolia Greene, third vice president of the center, has received a contribution of \$5,000 from Mrs. Mamie Birge Robertson of Fort Worth for a special garden in the area as a memo-
(See ZILKER, Page D-16)



Mrs. Alden Davis (right) discusses the location of the proposed Garden Center building with Mrs. S. W. Bohls, member of the building

committee. As now planned, the building would occupy this hilltop, with a corridor framing the view of the Capitol in the distance.

Alden Davis Dies Monday In Hospital

Alden Davis, a business leader in Austin for many years, died unexpectedly in a local hospital late Monday morning. He was 71.

Davis was a vice president and a member of the board of directors of The Walter Tips Company, and served as manager of the firm's automotive division. He retired only a few years ago.

He had been admitted to the hospital only Sunday. The body was taken to the Cook Funeral Home, where funeral arrangements are pending.

ALDEN DAVIS

Funeral services for Alden Davis will be held Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the Cook Funeral Home with Dr. Marvin Vance officiating.

Pallbearers will be George Schutze, Carl Johnson, Ralph Goeth, Wilton Jennings, Paul Bowman and Clarence Swenson. Entombment will be in Memorial Hill Mausoleum.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Jan 14, 1957; The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Jan 15, 1957

Gardeners Set Meeting On Tuesday

Mrs. Alden Davis will hostess the Austin Area Garden Center at a business meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at her home, 1308 Alta Vista.

Harold Schmitt, chairman of the nominating committee, will report on the forthcoming election of officers. Committee reports also will be given on the "Living With Flowers" show scheduled at the City Coliseum April 12-13. The show will include a show of the Violet Crown Garden Club.

Membership of the nominating committee is composed of presidents of the seven affiliated garden clubs in the Garden Center which met last week at the Austin Recreation Department offices. They are Miss Annie Giles, Violet Crown Garden Club; Mrs. Fred C. Young, Wilshire Area Garden Club; Mrs. John Washington, West Lake Garden Club; Mrs. L. H. Kenyon, Anderson Mill Gardeners; Mrs. M. E. Ratican, Heart of the Hills Gardeners; Mrs. Larry Griffith, Austin Woman's Federation Garden Group; and Mr. Schmitt, Men's Garden Club of Austin.

Garden Council Picks Nominees For New Officers

Mrs. J. W. Bradfield was nominated for president of the Austin Area Garden Council at a meeting in the home of Mrs. Alden Davis, retiring president,

1308 Alta Vista.

The Austin American (1914-1973); Jan 26, 1958 and Feb 2, 1958

TB Group Will Install Leader Today

M. H. Crockett Jr. will be installed as president of the Travis County Tuberculosis Association Tuesday at 4 p. m. in the library of the Texas Medical Association Building.

Plans for the tuberculosis program for the year will be discussed.

Other officers to be installed are Mrs. Alden Davis, first vice president; Jack F. Cook, second vice president, and Mrs. H. J. Leon, secretary.



Austin American-UPI
STAR-LIGHT! STAR-BRIGHT!—All dressed up like Christmas is this gay youngster, Jill Harvey, 1308 Alta Vista Avenue, who is co-captain of the Texas Stars. She wears the colorful uniform of her group, and she stands amidst the branches of a fiery-red Pyracantha bush at the home of her grandmother, Mrs. Alden Davis. Jill is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Harvey, and a sophomore at the University of Texas.

Garden Show Chairman Gives Needs for Center

By THE GARDEN EDITOR

"It seems incredible," sighed Mrs. Alden Davis, who is general chairman of the upcoming big flower show which will be held at the Municipal Auditorium on April 18 and 19, "but this week three normally intelligent citizens have asked me what all of us garden-minded people are going to do with the monies we will make on our big flower show! When I say it is for the Garden Center we want here, they ask, blankly, Why?"

"I have the reasons at my finger tips. Let me list them, one by one: 1. Civic beautification; 2. Gardens that can be viewed from the drives in Zilker Park, including rose gardens, cactus gardens, etc.; 3. Preservation of native plants and flowers; 4. Examples of different types of landscaping; 5. Examples of what grows in the shade and the sun; 6. A place where newcomers can learn from those of experience what grows well in Austin; 7. A place for the residents of Austin to observe the best in horticulture; 8. Development of test gardens; 9. A center which can be used as an outdoor laboratory for botanical study by the students from the Austin schools and the University of Texas; 10. A place to meet and

work together; 11. A place for a library on gardening; 12. A place to hold flower shows.

"At present we are using the house which is in Zilker Park. It is an old rock house, in the northwest section of the park. With the monies we receive from this big flower show, added to other sums which we believe will be given to our project by various garden clubs, we hope to show people what we can do in this central location of the state.

"The area includes not only the eight or nine garden clubs of Austin, but also the active garden clubs of the surrounding towns, Bastrop, Lampasas, Georgetown and groups such as the federated clubs."

Mrs. Davis has expressed her gratitude to the many officials of the city and the state. Last year when the Austin Area organization staged a show in the old City Auditorium many people who had never witnessed the enthusiastic response of men and women for a gloral display were frankly amazed. Mayor Tom Miller came back three times to inspect various blooms. He will again be a favored visitor this year. So will Governor and Mrs. Price Daniel, President and Mrs. Logan Wilson of the University of Texas, and many other dignitaries.

IN MY TEXAS GARDEN

By CLARE OGDEN DAVIS

All those who had rather sweat than shiver admit mid-summer reduces, generally speaking, to the blooms of zinnias and marigolds. The peak of the oleander flowering is past; only a few errant buds are still bursting into beauty. The roses are sleeping as they prepare for the burst of early autumn blooming. It is not quite time for dahlias and chrysanthemums. There will be late summer flowers on a few lilies.

So it is with gratitude that the crape myrtles are beheld. Just now they are truly wondrous. For such fragile looking and crinkled little blossoms they are—and so sturdy and heat-resistant!—that we can only wonder and applaud Mother Nature for providing them!

Botanically this tree has the

jaw-breaking name of Lagerstroemia (lay-ger-stree'mi-a); it was named by Linnaeus for his friend Magnus von Lagerstroem, when it was first brought over from the warm regions of China.

It is either a sturdy shrub or a tall tree, and it blooms in a variety of colors, white, purple and red. It will bloom the first year from seed, but usually it is propagated from cuttings, for it roots with great ease. Often the baby trees bloom the first year from these cuttings; sometimes it looks plain ridiculous to see a little two foot crape myrtle putting out a cluster of blooms!

It is worthy of note that these young trees should be harshly pruned after they have bloomed; some good growers cut them to the ground. Such a shock usually makes the young tree bloom more heavily in its second year. Also it should be kept in mind that there will be better bloom if all the ambitious young shoots which have a habit of springing up from the main roots are cut off. The energy of the plant will go into making better blooms if it is not expended in growing side shoots.

The worst blight a crape myrtle normally gets is mildew and that has been answered by the use of modern control chemicals. The new fungicides, such as fermite and captan, are the answer to the crape myrtle fan's prayer.

This is one of the oldest and most popular blooming plants of our part of America. Some of the older plantation homes of Virginia and the Carolinas have specimen plantings which are many years old and of great beauty. There are few hedge plantings of crape myrtles which are tourist attractions in many states when they burst into their summer flowering.

Local recognition of the value of this blooming plant was given

by the Violet Crown Garden Club in 1916 when Mrs. Alden Davis, 1308 Alta Vista, was president. Members of the club took a vote on what they considered the finest bloomer of the Austin area. The Crape Myrtle won hands down. Members of the club then started on a planting project, and today, about 15 years later, there is a floral tribute all over Austin to the energy of these forward thinking gardeners.

Mrs. Alden Davis '60 'Most Worthy Citizen'

Mrs. Alden Davis Monday was named Austin's Most Worthy Citizen of 1960 by the Austin Real Estate Board.

She will receive an award commemorating the occasion at a banquet in her honor at Westwood Country Club, beginning at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21.

Mrs. Davis is the 12th person to receive the Most Worthy Citizen

title. She was chosen by a selection committee consisting of D. D. Johnson, chairman; Harry Brandt, Cy Miller, Ken Pringle, and Roger Hanks.

Dozens of testimonial letters nominating Mrs. Davis for the honor were received by the committee, Johnson said.

Mrs. Davis has been a civic volunteer since 1912, and has put in hundreds of hours each year on such community projects as the Humane Society, March of Dimes, Texas Society for Crippled Children, the Cerebral Palsy Center, Travis County Tuberculosis Hospital, Community Chest, Safety Committee, Red Cross, and Cancer Program.

REB Fete To Honor Mrs. Davis

Mrs. Alden Davis will be given public honor and presented with an engraved plaque as Austin's Most Worthy Citizen for 1960 by the Austin Real Estate Board at its annual banquet Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Westwood Country Club.

The plaque will be presented by Ed P. Knabel, who was honored as Austin's Most Worthy Citizen last year. This presentation and a responding speech by Mrs. Davis will climax a program which will include the principal address by Senator Charles Herring, the installation of officers and directors of the Austin Real Estate Board by Judge Charles O. Betts, and the report of Past President Arthur E. Pihlgren.

The program will be opened with an invocation by the Rev. Samuel Baxter Jr., rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd. H. C. Pittman, assistant vice president of the Austin National Bank, will serve as master of ceremonies.

Edgar E. Jackson, new president, will make the response for the new officers and directors following their installation.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Feb 7, 1961 and The Austin American (1914-1973); Feb 19, 1961

MRS. ALDEN DAVIS

Mrs. Alden Davis isn't an artist herself, but probably she's done more to encourage art than anyone else in town.

Chosen the American-Statesman's outstanding woman in the field of art, she has been in charge of the art gallery at the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs headquarters for four years and for the Austin Woman's Club gallery for a year.

She tries to encourage good, but unknown, local and area artists by giving one-man shows at the galleries.

"It's been my ambition to discover another Grandma Moses," she admits.

She recalls one lady past 70 who had given up and settled down in her rocking chair. Mrs. Davis heard about the paintings she'd done in past years and talked her into exhibiting them here.

They were such a success that the grandmother had to get out of her rocking chair and start running to keep up with the portrait commissions.

The club galleries have given other senior citizens a new lease on life. Even back during the depression, Mrs. Davis was setting up exhibitions now and then.

She heard of an old man, ill with cancer, near Austin. She went out to talk with him and saw his shack filled with land-

scape paintings. He was so poor he could not afford medical care, and hadn't even eaten in quite a while. She took him out for a steak dinner and took 37 of his pictures to show here. Austinites bought enough of them to take care of the old man the rest of his life.

He gave her one of his paintings, and it is still a very prized possession. However, Mrs. Davis is not a collector of art. Her interests are wide — the Travis Heights Improvement Association, dozens of civic projects, safety, women's clubs, garden clubs, music, drama, her long pink car.

She loves flowers and her orange canary bird. She has so many plants in her kitchen that her friends call it "the wilderness."

Mrs. Davis Elected By Cancer Unit

DALLAS — Mrs. Alden Davis of Austin was elected vice president of the Texas Division of the American Cancer Society at the closing session of the Society's annual meeting here. Mrs. Davis was also elected to the division's executive committee and board of directors.

Lewis Spears, Dr. John F. Thomas, Dr. Pruitt Watkins and Dr. John D. Weaver, all of Austin, were elected directors-at-large, and Dr. Thomas and Lewis Spears were also elected to the executive committee.

Dr. Thomas was also one of four Texas representatives elected to the National House of Delegates of the American Cancer Society.

The Austin American (1914-1973); Jan 14, 1962 and Dec 2, 1962

Mrs. Davis Given Recreation Award

Mrs. Alden Davis, whose interests range from gardening to the arts, has been awarded the National Recreation Association award for community effort in Central Texas.

The citation was presented during a special ceremony at the Zilker Hillside Theater in Zilker Park.

Mrs. Davis began her community work with the Austin Humane Society in 1912 and has

entered into virtually every activity concerned with children, plants, science and art since then. Currently she is vice president of the Natural Science Center.

A member of the Austin Parks and Recreation Board since 1951, Mrs. Davis has also served on the Chamber of Commerce tourism committee and as chairman of the annual Christmas lighting contest.

In 1955 she became a charter member and first president of the Austin Area Garden Center, a council representing 13 garden clubs for promotion of the annual flower show, a municipal garden center and botanical park. Mrs. Davis is chairman of the botanical gardens building committee. Construction is slated for 1963.

As art chairman of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs, Mrs. Davis arranged for the annual exhibit of work by the Municipal Art Guild.

She has also served as a Sunday school teacher for many years at the First Methodist Church, conducting out-of-doors classes in Zilker Park from early spring to late fall.

A winner of many community official "thank you's," Mrs. Davis was named "Most Worthy Citizen" in 1961 by the Austin Real Estate Board, "Woman of the Year" in 1960 by the Travis County Medical Auxiliary, and "Outstanding Contributor to Art" in 1962 by The American-Statesman.



NATIONAL RECREATION ASSN. HONORS MRS. ALDEN DAVIS
Parks Board Chairman Dr. D. K. Brace presents award.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Jun 24, 1963

Garden Area Thrills Editor

By J. MABEL CLARK

With warm smiles of happiness at her first sight of the new "In My Texas Garden" plot at the Austin Area Garden Center, American-Statesman Garden Editor Clare Ogden Davis Thursday was given a wheel chair tour of the section that now bears the name of her popular weekly garden column.

"I want to see . . . it's wonderful" were the words eagerly repeated over and over by the well known columnist as she viewed the many Zilker Gardens and the Center Clubhouse and visited with her hosts for the afternoon — Mrs. Alden Davis, Mrs. John Linn Scott and City Recreation Director Beverly S. Sheffield.

Not only was Clare Ogden Davis making her first visit to the new plot which honors her and her column, but it was also the first time that she had seen the completed Center Clubhouse, opened after she was stricken with a paralyzing stroke last fall.

Having devoted many years of effort, working hard along with the many Area Garden Center officials, Clare Davis can proudly point to her own share in making the city's Garden Center dream come true.

Thursday afternoon was truly a red-letter day for Clare, who is working mightily to further her remarkable recovery which seems too far ahead of schedule to date in such an illness. Early in the morning, her daily routines of physical therapy, speech therapy, etc., were interrupted to prepare for the excursion. With her lovely red hair becomingly coiffed by Mrs. Maybelle Harvey as a gift of affection, and wearing a striking gold robe, Mrs. Davis and her wheel chair were given transportation to Zilker Park from Shady Acres Nursing Home by Hyllin-Manor ambulance, a courtesy from Joe Manor and his staffers Morris Holman, Jan Thurman and Richard Tull. The latter two men, Nurse Kay Gillian, and Clare's close friend Jean Scott made the trip with Clare in the ambulance.

Mrs. W. B. Wardlow, one of Texas' best known orchid growers, gave Mrs. Davis a large spray of Phalaenopsis and Cattleya orchids to carry on Thursday's journey. Marie Wardlow wanted Clare to have the bouquet in appreciation of her determined effort to learn to

keeping well abreast of news and entertainment, spends increasing hours in her wheel chair, keeps her typewriter close by, maintains a watchful eye on the growing flower gardens at Shady Acres. There's every reason to hope that she will soon be able to work again on her column, now being "guest-written."

About the new In My Texas Garden plot . . . everybody who wishes may have a part in this project which will feature only Texas native plants and blossoms. There are plenty of native trees, the garden is curbed and equipped with underground sprinkler system. At the entrance is a large handsome, standing, native rock Map of Texas, the work of Artist and Landscaper Frank Renoit. A large redwood sign lists the plot's name.

Mrs. Alden Davis, fifth vice president of the Area Center board and in charge of buildings and grounds, and C. O. Smith, a landscape architect and superintendent of Austin City Parks, plan someday to have a flagstone walk to wind through In My Texas Garden. All plantings will, of course, be supervised in keeping with the new garden plot's Texas theme. They report that the first blooming plants in this project will most likely be bluebonnets, which they hope to soon transplant in great budding clumps. It is hoped, too, a small fountain may be installed.

Already, many friends of Clare Ogden Davis and others have had a share in the beginnings of the Garden Center's new In My Texas Garden, but still it will take the assistance of many more. Those who wish to aid in this project may mail their contributions to Clare Ogden Davis Garden Fund, 1620 Barton Springs Road, Austin, Texas, 78704.



American-Statesman/CPE

Mrs. Alden Davis, left, and Mrs. John Linn Scott escort American-Statesman Garden Editor Clare Ogden Davis, in a wheel chair, on her first tour of the Austin Area Garden Center and Zilker Gardens. Mrs. Davis, recovering from a stroke which she suffered shortly before the Garden Center opened last fall, shared in the work and planning for the Zilker projects.

Mrs. Alden Davis Is Outstanding in Many Areas

Mrs. Alden Davis, who in 1961 was named by the American-Statesman as Outstanding in the Arts, has been chosen the Outstanding Clubwoman in 1965.

She might also have been named the Outstanding Gardener in Austin or the Outstanding Volunteer. Her talents and interests include almost every endeavor.

This is evident from the many other awards presented to her in recent years. In 1961 she was named the Most Worthy Citizen in Austin. She has been chosen the Outstanding Woman in Clubwork by the Soroptimists and has been named The Lady of the Year by the Travis County Medical Auxiliary.

She was presented a national award from the National Rec-

reation Association for work in the field of gardening for recreation, and she was also chosen to receive one of the three awards ever given by the Texas Safety Association for outstanding work in safety.

Mrs. Davis was one of the organizers of the Texas Federation of Woman's Clubs, which now has a membership of 26,000. One of her first propositions was for the Austin-Travis County Tuberculosis Hospital, and she was president of the Austin Federation for two years during its construction.

"I still have the telegram from Senator Lyndon B. Johnson giving us the first grant for \$15,000 for it, and then another telegram awarding us an additional \$15,000," she says.

For 12 years she has been on the state federation board and for six years she was art chairman of the federation and responsible for an art exhibit every month. Presently she is projects chairman and is working on the Biblical Garden in Zilker Park.

As fifth vice-president of the Austin Area Garden Council this year, she is in charge of the building and grounds for the Garden Center (she was the first president of the Austin Area Garden Center).

In her current office, she is looking forward this year to completion of the Meditation Garden at the Center, the Calvary Garden, the Ascension Garden, the Star of David and a replica of an old church with stained glass windows and electric chimes.

There are few things dearer to Mrs. Davis' heart than the Garden Center which celebrated its first birthday this year.

"I created the idea for it in



MRS. ALDEN DAVIS

1954," she says, "but I didn't know how, when or where." Once she had the idea, she began to sell the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Board on it. Then she called a group of interested garden clubs together to help develop the center and Zilker Gardens.

"It had been my dream for so long to have a place that would benefit the citizens of Austin who have gardens . . . a place where young people can learn about the many seeds and plants," she says.

It took a decade of work by the 24 clubs in the Garden Council . . . to raise the money and to secure the land . . . but the Garden Center is now a reality.

"And I think we have a showplace," says Mrs. Davis.

She is a past president of the Violet Crown Garden Club and a long-time member of the AWF garden group. She does public

relations for the Texas Garden Clubs Inc. and is also a life member of that organization.

In addition, she is president of the Travis Heights Improvement Association . . . "It means so much that my neighbors think that much of me," she says.

Equal to Mrs. Davis' interest in gardening is her interest in health.

During World War II she worked as executive secretary of the Red Cross on a volunteer basis. She's worked with the crippled children of Austin Travis County, and she also serves on the county boards of the American Cancer Society and the Tuberculosis Association.

She has one daughter, Mrs. Nolan Harvey, twin grandchildren named Jack and Jill, and three great grandchildren.

Travis Dems HQ Opens Thursday

Travis County Democrats will officially open their headquarters at Ninth and Congress Avenue Thursday from 4:30 until 7 p.m., co-chairmen Les Procter and Mrs. Alden Davis announced Monday.

Procter, who in 1962 ran against Carr in his first race for attorney general, said he was honored to be spearheading the drive for Carr in this area.

"We were classmates at the University of Texas Law School and throughout his 10 years in the Legislature, two terms as speaker of the House and later as attorney general, my contacts with him have been numerous. They have continually reassured me of his great ability and sincere desire to serve the people of Texas."

Co-ordinating the volunteer movement of women in the county will be the job of Mrs. Davis. "We are making plans for the opening of our headquarters and are also in the process of contacting the many women who have already enlisted to support Carr in this race."

"It is a real privilege for me to be assisting in this campaign," continued Mrs. Davis. "Waggoner Carr's tremendous ability is evidenced by his recent selection as the outstanding attorney general of the nation."

"The Youth Program sponsored by Carr has gained the respect of all Texas mothers,

and we in Travis County are especially proud of him. We will strive to top all other counties in Texas in winning the US Senate race in November."

Long active in volunteer work in the community, Mrs. Davis has been honored often for her efforts. In 1960 she was named Woman of the Year by the Travis County Medical Society and the following year was given the Most Worthy Citizen award by the Real Estate Board. The American-Statesman recognized her contributions in art in 1962 with a special citation, and the National Recreation Association award for her community efforts in Central Texas was given to Mrs. Davis in 1963.

She became one of the first five women to serve on a Travis County grand jury in 1954, the year Procter began his first term as district attorney.

Procter who was highly successful in his campaigns for the office of county attorney and later district attorney was named Austin's Young Man of the Year in 1955 and outstanding Texas prosecutor by the Texas Law Enforcement Foundation in 1957. A Marine, he served in World War II and Korea and is presently engaged in the practice of law in Travis County.

Procter and Mrs. Davis stressed the fact that Thursday's opening was for all residents of Travis County. Coffee will be served.



American-Statesman/UPI

MRS. ALDEN DAVIS, MRS. STERLING FULMORE, COL. GARRISON
Mrs. Davis is regional women's director, Texas Safety Association

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Mar 8, 1967

9 Austin Women Get Safety Awards

HOUSTON — Nine Austin women Monday were named winners of individual awards at the 28th annual Texas Safety Conference, Governor's Highway Safety Conference and Youth Safety Conference being held at the Rice Hotel here.

Women's Activities Awards

are given to individuals and to groups for outstanding safety contributions.

Austin winners of individual awards are Mrs. Albert Bishop, head of the Y-Teen Advisors' Clubs; Mrs. Roger Busfield, public relations chairman, Austin YWCA board of directors; Mrs. Jo Canon, teenage director, Austin YWCA; Mrs. Alden T. Davis, 1308 Alta Vista; and Mrs. Harry Griffiths, 1405 Newfield Lane.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Mar 20, 1967



CONSTRUCTION STARTS — Mrs. Alden Davis, chairman of the 11th annual flower show, makes a Mexican flower tree as part of the elaborate Mexican decorations for "Fiesta de Flores." The flower show is being held April 26-28 at Fiesta Gardens on Town Lake. Show hours on Friday and Saturday will be from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

and on Sunday from noon to 10 p.m. The new Rose Queen will be crowned at 8 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$1 for adults. Children under 12 will be admitted free. Tickets may be purchased at the Garden Center, from Garden Center club members or at the gate during the flower show. Proceeds will go to the Garden Center.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Apr 17, 1968

AWC Is 40

Ruby Anniversary Party Is Thursday

"Forty Fantastic Fashion Flavorings for Our Ruby Anniversary," is the title which Mrs. Alden Davis, chairman of The Austin Woman's Club ways and means committee, has "thought up" for her committee's special celebration for the Club's 40th Birthday Party Thursday, 11:30 a.m.

Preceding an unusual fashion show, Mrs. Harvey Herbst will describe the happenings in Austin, the state and the nation near the December, 1928 date when the Club was organized. Mrs. Davis will serve as emcee and Mrs. James E. Webb will be the style show commentator. Mrs. Eddie Simmons will sing "Bless This House," accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Glen E. Lewis.

The models, all wearing gowns of "old vintage" and who will be introduced as if they were "departing for some function like Governor Dan Moody's inauguration" will include Mrs. Fred Adams, Jr., Mrs. Lawrence Adams, Mrs. Jess Baker, Miss Pearl Casbeer, Mrs. Harvey Deen, Mrs. Amos Felts, Mrs. Warren Freund, Mrs. Louis

Henna, Mrs. John R. Kingsbery, Mrs. R. V. Miller, Mrs. Will Miller, Miss Lolla Peterson, Mrs. Walter Roberts, Mrs. Frank Rundell, Mrs. C. H. Slater, Mrs. Carl Widen, Mrs. Ima C. Wittman, Mrs. R. L. Wyatt and Mrs. George F. Zimmermann. Other program participants will also wear period gowns.

Mrs. O. L. Alexander will provide piano accompaniment as each group of models is presented. The style show will be climaxed in a ruby tableau, with all models "on stage" as "Happy Birthday" is sung by all.

Mrs. Lynn W. McCraw, The Club president, will preside at the luncheon, with all past presidents seated with her at the head table as her personal guests. All charter members will have a special table of their own and will be

personally recognized by Mrs. Olin Culberson.

The center piece for the head table will be a three-tiered birthday cake, featuring 40 crystal-cut cathedral candles. Each guest will be given a ruby red candle for her own dessert-serving of cake and all candles will be lit simultaneously.

There will be ruby balloons, lots of red net and plenty of confetti sprinkled about, lending an old-fashioned decor to a truly old-fashioned birthday party; Those who wish will present birthday gifts to the Club, enclosed in tiny ruby envelopes which have been mailed to the membership, with all such gifts to benefit the house committee's restoration project in the original part of the huge chateau-like clubhouse, purchased by the Club in March 1929, just three months after the clubwomen organized where the late Mrs. Sam J. Smith was first president and Mrs. Ben Powell was the first house chairman.

Parks-Recreation Board Selects New Officer Slate

By M. NEVEN DU MONT
Staff Writer

The newly elected Parks and Recreation Board held its first meeting Tuesday and elected Mrs. Alden Davis chairman, M. Z. Collins vice chairman and Mrs. J. H. Means secretary.

Before naming its new officers, the board, under direction of acting chairman James Peal, considered a capital improvements program for 1970, due for recommendation to the City Council "in the near future."

The proposals total \$934,000, of which \$495,000 has been spent. They were itemized as follows: Town Lake area land acquisition — \$477,000; Walnut Creek metropolitan park purchase — \$315,000; Lake Austin metropolitan park improvements — \$42,000; neighborhood playgrounds at elementary schools — \$10,000; Meadowbrook park development — \$20,000; Morris Williams golf course improvements — \$15,000; Sunshine Camp (construction of a new campers' shelter) — \$15,000; and Kealing Park development (construction

of sidewalks and retaining walls) — \$12,000.

The Walnut Creek metropolitan park purchase is listed as 59 per cent completed, and the Town Lake area land acquisition in the vicinity of Festival Beach, Waller Beach and Fiesta Gardens, is listed as 62 per cent completed.

Mrs. Means charged inequity in distribution of appropriations to various areas of the city. Noting appropriations for a concession stand at Morris Williams golf course, she said Rosewood Park needed a concession stand.

"I don't see one item for Givens park," Mrs. Means added. She had said earlier that more picnic facilities were needed in Givens.

Beverly Sheffield, City Parks Department director, explained that the concession was going to the golf course because it would make money for the department.

"We do have a concession stand at Rosewood, built a long

time ago. We tried to put a new one in there a few years back but couldn't get a concessionaire," Sheffield said.

Mrs. Means said there were not the number of tennis courts in East Austin and available to Negro children that there are in other parts of the city.

"We don't have enough money for everything," Sheffield said.

"It seems to me you find money for other things," Mrs. Means said.

In other business, the board agreed to consider an offer of seven large pieces of steel sculpture, done by James Foster, a University of Texas professor and offered on his behalf for semi-permanent exhibition by Mrs. Lois Winn of Winn Art Gallery.

It also requested to hear specific proposal to make Eighth street, between San Antonio and Nueces, a landscape garden-way open to slow moving, one-way vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The proposal will be presented at a future meeting, Mrs. Davis said.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Jun 17, 1970

Austin 'Worthy' Listed 'Good'

Mrs. Alden Davis of 1308 Alta Vista was reported to be in good condition Monday at St. David's Hospital.

A hospital spokesman said Mrs. Davis entered the hospital last week when she became ill.

She is a former Austin's Most Worthy Citizen and is known for her volunteer work in civic projects.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); May 31, 1971

'Citizen' Nominees Needed

More nominees are being sought by the selection committee of the Austin Board of Realtors which is choosing Austin's "Most Worthy Citizen" of 1972.

Any person who epitomizes the characteristics embodied in the theme, "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness", is eligible for this honor if his or her name is submitted Tuesday in writing to the Board office, 4106 Medical Parkway by 5 p.m. A biographical sketch must be included in the signed entry.

Past recipients have worked in charity, civic, and social work, and in general economic development. The award was first given in 1949 to long-time mayor, Tom Miller, followed by Walter Long (1950) who managed the Chamber of Commerce for 30 years. I. I. Nelson (1951) was an Austin teacher, and James D. Lemon, (1952) headed the Salvation Army. E. H. Perry (1953) served in many ways, especially in city government, and Hugo F. Kuehne (1954) was instrumental in establishing the School of Architecture at the University of Texas. Civic leader John D. Simpson (1955) helped establish the United Fund, Rodney J. Kidd (1956) was known for his work with boys and Miss Lolla Peterson (1957) always extended a helping hand to the needy and distressed.

Dr. Edmund Heinsohn (1958) was recognized for his religious and civic works, followed by Ed P. Knebel (1959) who promoted baseball for the city youth. Mrs. Alden Davis (1960) was an "ecologist" before the word was well known and her efforts resulted in Zilker Park Gardens. Sister Philomena (1961) was recognized for her

Mrs. Alden Davis, 1308 Alta Vista, an Austin civic leader, observes:

"Mr. Davis and I moved to Taft, Texas, in 1910. It was almost a day's journey from Falfurrias to Taft in 1910. In 1909, Mr. Lasater already had begun selling Furrias butter in Taft. Mr. Davis managed the Taft Ranch general store. We all had plenty of cows. But we always bought Falfurrias-sweet-cream butter to eat," she recalls.

"Then it was the best. And I still think it is the best.

"Later Mr. Davis and I moved back to the Austin area, where he was associated with the Walter Tips Hardware Company, until his death," she explains.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Feb 20, 1972 and "Edwin Lasater Battled Misfortune Establishing Dairy Cattle Empire Purcell, S M" in The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Sep 17, 1972



MRS. ALDEN DAVIS
Honored

Austinite's Name Put On Gardens

A longtime civic leader and chairman emeritus of the Parks and Recreation Board was honored Thursday, when city councilmen named the Zilker Gardens Rose Garden for her.

Mrs. Alden (Mabel) Davis holds lifetime memberships in the Austin Women's Club, Texas Garden Clubs, Austin Area Garden Center and American Cancer Society.

She has been active in the Violet Crown Garden Club, Austin Women's Federation and is one of six persons in the state to receive the diamond award for service to the cancer society.

She was named Austin's Most Worthy Citizen in 1961, has been named the Travis County Medical Association's Lady of the Year and received a city council distinguished service award.

During World War II she was director of Red Cross volunteer services in Austin and later was instrumental in the creation of the Travis County Tuberculosis Hospital.

A Williamson County native, she also has worked with the Austin Humane Society and taught Sunday school classes at the First Methodist Church.

MRS. ALDEN DAVIS

Funeral for Mrs. Alden Davis, 1308 Alta Vista, was Thursday at Weed-Corley Funeral Home. Entombment was in Memorial Hill Mausoleum.

Mrs. Davis died Wednesday.

Pallbearers were Dan Davidson, Carl Johnson, Forest Pearson, Jack W. Robinson, B. C. Todd and Joe K. Wells.

Honorary pallbearers were Congressman J. J. (Jake) Pickle, Taylor Glass, Carl Hardin, Dr. John Thomas, Harris Brush, Walter E. Long, Sen. Charles Herring, Reuben Rountree, Lester Palmer, Dr. Irby Carruth, Dr. Willis R. Bodine, Judge Homer Thornberry, Justice Zollie Steakley, Louis Shanks, John Simpson, Wesley Pearson, J. M. Owens, Justice Price Daniel, Mayor Roy Butler, Mayor Pro-Tem Dan Love, and City Councilmen Lowell Lebermann, Berl Handcox, Dick Nichols, Dr. S. H. "Bud" Dryden and Jeff M. Friedman.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Apr 27, 1973 (1921-1973); May 10, 1973

Mrs. **Alden Davis**

Death Claims Civic Leader

Austin civic leader Mrs. **Alden Davis**, named the city's "most worthy citizen" in 1961, died Wednesday morning in St. David's Hospital.

Once described as a "civic worker deluxe," Mrs. Davis, whose most recent interest was the city parks and recreation board, became active in civic organizations in 1912 when she became interested in the Humano Society.

At that time, the main concern of the society was not animals but people and Mrs. Davis was especially active in finding care for children of working mothers.

She was also affiliated with the Texas Society for Crippled Children, the Cerebral Palsy center and helped create the Travis County TB Hospital.

An organizer of the Austin Community Chest, she was also active in Red Cross drives during World War II.

Her other civic interests included serving as chairman of the decorating committee for Chamber of Commerce banquets for five years, promoting a "Better Yards" contest, chairing a Christmas lighting contest; and being a member of the First Safety Committee organized in Austin.

She once supervised a drive to encourage better restrooms in service stations, was the first vice president of the Travis Heights Improvement Association, director of the Garden Center, on the



MRS. ALDEN DAVIS
Civic Leader Dies

steering committee for a Junior Nature Center, on the executive committee of the Chamber of Commerce for tourism and a board member of the State Federation of Women's Clubs.

Besides being named most worthy citizen by the Austin Real Estate Board, she was named woman of the year in 1970 by the Travis County Medical Auxiliary.

A Zilker rose garden was named in her honor earlier this month.

Funeral for Mrs. Davis will be Thursday at 4 p.m. at Weed-Corley Funeral Home, with Rev. Charles Sumners of the St. David's Episcopal Church officiating. Entombment will be in the Memorial Hill Mausoleum.

Austin's outstanding women

Six women have been named Austin's outstanding women for 1975 by The Austin American-Statesman.

Selected were **Martha Cotera**, whose "boat rocking" in the Mexican-American community is paying off in better education and educational facilities, in the raised consciousness of the minority business sector and in added dimension for the word Chicana; **Marle Hanna**, whose community involvement has benefited Austin for more years than she'd probably care to remember and who, though "semi-retired" from many civic and social endeavors, continues to make her presence felt as a college trustee, bank director and social services supporter; educator **Bertha Means**, whose greatest weapon against race discrimination may be her optimism and whose quiet-but-determined civil rights work is respected by both the black and white community alike; **Dorothy Nichols**, a behind-the-scenes mover/shaker whose

commitment to any community project seems to guarantee its success; **Gretchen Runge**, a real ombudsman for Austin children as a pediatrician and medical director of the Austin Evaluation Center, Inc., and **Martha Smiley**, the young assistant attorney general and president of the Texas Women's Political Caucus who is working through the system to get women involved in politics and to give politics a better name.

The six women chosen this year bring the total of Austin women honored by the American-Statesman to 93.

Former recipients include:

1960 — Miss Lucy Barton and Mmes Herman Jones, Cecil Cabiniss, Lorene Bolt, Kelly McAdams and Everett G. Smith.

1961 — Mary Nell Garrison and Mmes **Alden Davis**, Magnolia Greene, Buck (Lorraine Barnes) Hood, Harry Griffiths and James Lindeman Jr.

1962 — Miss Alice Miller, Miss Kathrine

Pantazis and Mmes Price Daniel, J. W. Rutland, James Hart and Jessie McIlroy Smith.

1963 — Dr. Jenny Lind Porter and Mmes Will Wilson, Fred Sharp, Fred (Ruth Millett)-Lowry, Olin Culberson and Allan Shivers.

1964 — Dr. Georgia F. Legett and Mmes Lyndon B. Johnson, Carl Edward Bock, S. J. Pirson, William Kay Miller and Maude Folmar.

1965 — Miss Emilie Limburg and Mmes Bill (Betsy) Warren, Garrie Bray, Ray Yates, Alden Davis and Joseph Stjepcevic.

1966 — Bert Kruger Smith, Barbara Carson and Mmes Bryant Collins, Harry Ransom, R. A. Miles and Fred Sharp.

1967 — Mmes Lael Coates, R. A. Cooper, John Connally, Dorothy Hallman, Bob Long and D. J. Sibley Jr.

1968 — Dolly Maude Harris and Mmes C. Burford Weller, Alice Reynolds,

William J. Rose, Roy Butler and Weldon Brewer.

1969 — Mmes Exalton Delco, Robert L. King, Bobbie Alford, Roger Busfield, Donald O'Brien.

1970 — Dr. Lear Ashmore and Mmes Barr McClellan, T. Hardie Bowman, Walter E. Sjöberg Jr., William F. Howard and Lalo Campos.

1971 — Dr. Lorene Rogers and Mmes Jack Neff, J. E. Hickman, Margaret Wilson, Pete Hord and Robert Wilkes.

1972 — Dr. Marilyn Willman, Norma Guerra, Ruth Seeger and Mmes Mary Faulk Koeck, Paul Brown Jr. and Morin Scott.

1973 — Hermelinda Rodriguez, Rep. Sarah Weddington and Mmes Luci Nugent, Frank McBee Jr., Malcolm Milburn and Greenwood Woolen Jr.

1974 — Judge Mary Pearl Williams, Dr. Ruth Bain, Dr. Connie Yerwood, Mrs. Shelby Hearon and Mrs. Jean Beasley.

The Austin American Statesman (1973-1980); Jan 25, 1976

The Austin Area Garden Center was dedicated on Oct. 25, 1964, after local garden clubs worked with the city to establish a public horticultural center.

Here is information about key areas of the center which are noted on the map above:

Garden Center building — meeting area and headquarters for Austin Area Garden Council.

Biblical garden — Enter through decorative iron gates given in memory of Dr. Dorothy Schons.

Oriental garden — A tea house, lotus-lily pond and foot bridge designed by Isamu Taniguchi.

Bickler cupola — The cupola in the rose garden originally topped on of Austin's first public schools, named for educator Joseph Bickler.

Rose garden — Named for Mrs. **Alden Davis**, a long-time Austin civic leader, types of roses are labeled.

Memorial grove — An area dedicated to City of Austin employees who have died in service of the city.

tion moved it to the garden center in 1965.

Esparanza school house — Originally built in the Spicewood Springs community 110 years ago.

Fragrance garden — Information about pungent plants is provided in Braille.

Summer house — A restoration of the home of Mrs. Mamie Wilson Rowe, long-time Austin resident.

Hamilton azalea garden — 20,000 square feet of blooms built in memory of gardener Mrs. Kathrine Parr Hamilton.

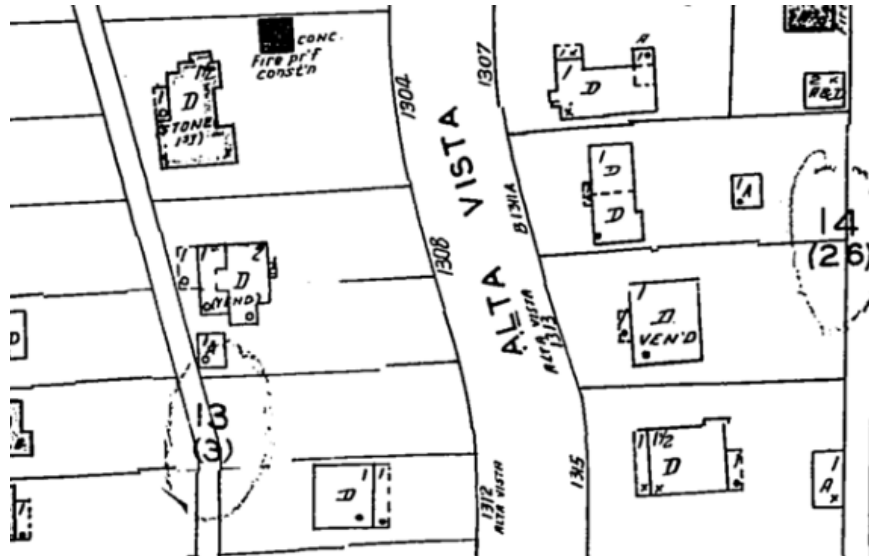
Mineral trail — Twelve native Texas stones identified for strollers and provided by the Austin Gem and Mineral Society.

• **WHERE** — Austin Area Garden Center, 2200 Barton Springs Road. Parking available by the Zilker Park polo grounds across from the center. Free shuttle service from parking to center.

• **WHEN** — Today and Sunday, 11

The Austin American Statesman (1973-1980); May 6, 1978

Maps



1961 Sanborn map

Permits

207-8-9910 REC-3 WATER SERVICE PERMIT E No 60372
 Austin, Texas
 Received of Daniel E. Alder Date 11-25-69
 Address 1308 Alta Vista Ave
 Amount Twenty \$ 95.00
 Plumber renews pd tap 2413 Size of Tap 1 1/2
 Date of Connection 12-10-69
 Size of Tap Made 2-1"
 Size Service Made 2-1"
 Size Main Tapped 2 CFI
 From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 7'
 From S Prop. Line to Curb Cock 45'
 Location of Meter CURB
 Type of Box ROUND
 Depth of Main in St. 3'
 Depth of Service Line 2'
 From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 6'
 Checked by Engr. Dept. MEW 12-11-69

No. Fittings	Size
18	1" COPPER
2	1" COP-COCK
1	Cop. to Iron ell
1	Cop. to Cop. ell
1	Cop. to Iron Coupling
1	Cop. to Cop. Coupling
1	Angle Stop 1/2"
1	1/2" X 1"
1	Bushing 1/2" X 1"
1	Nipples 1/2" X 1" BRASS
2	Service Clamps 2 X 1"
1	ROSE-NIPPLE 1 1/2"
1	Meter Box ROUND
1	Lock Lid
1	Drain Tile
1	Drain Tile Lid
1	Stop & Drain
Job No. <u>82632300-502</u>	
Foreman <u>D. D. D.</u>	

OWNER	Bill Broyles	ADDRESS	1308 Alta Vista Ave.
PLAT	130	LOT	10
		BLK.	3
SUBDIVISION	Travis Heights		
OCCUPANCY	pool		
BLDG. PERMIT #	165659	DATE	7-6-77
		OWNERS ESTIMATE	\$6000.00
CONTRACTOR	Gen-Tex Swimming Pools		NO. OF FIXTURES
WATER TAP REC#	SEWER TAP REC#		
prvt swim pool & required enclosure device			
2-13-78#170463- William Broyles Remodel for bedroom & bath & addn deck for pool- Remodel existing res & addn deck to pool. 8,000.00			
OWNER	William Broyles	ADDRESS	1308 Alta Vista Ave
PLAT	130	LOT	9 & 10 & Vac. Alley
		BLK.	3
SUBDIVISION	Travis Hgts		
OCCUPANCY	Fast Residence		
BLDG. PERMIT #	165979	DATE	7-19-77
		OWNERS ESTIMATE	55,000.00
CONTRACTOR	Benson Gen Const		NO. OF FIXTURES 5
WATER TAP REC#	SEWER TAP REC#		
addn and remodel res 2 story 1001 sq. ft.			